

Role description: QCT Board members

Background

The Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) is the regulatory body for the teaching profession in Queensland. Funded by teacher registration fees paid by teachers, the QCT develops, maintains and upholds professional standards for initial entry and continuing membership of the profession. The QCT is accountable to the Minister for Education.

The QCT works directly with the teaching profession and key education stakeholders to support and promote the teaching profession, to uphold the standards of the teaching profession, to maintain public confidence in the teaching profession, and to protect the public by ensuring teaching schools is provided in a professional and competent way by approved teachers.

The QCT's purpose, vision, values, current goals and objectives are stated in its Strategic Plan, which is available on the QCT website and should be read in conjunction with the information in this document.

Board composition

The Board is made up of 15 members, most of whom must be registered teachers. Three practising teachers are directly elected by teachers, while the remaining members are nominated by employer organisations, teacher unions, parent and community organisations, and the higher education forum. Board members are appointed by the Queensland Government, for a term of up to three years.

Board members form a vital link between practising teachers, members of the teaching profession and the wider public.

What is the role of a QCT Board member?

The Board is the governing body of the QCT. The Board decides the strategic direction of the QCT, controls its affairs, carries out its functions, and exercises the powers of the QCT under the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005* (the Act).

A QCT Board member works to:

- uphold quality standards of the teaching profession in schools
- maintain public confidence in the teaching profession
- recognise excellence in teaching and promote the profession
- protect the public by ensuring education in schools is provided in a professional and competent way by approved teachers.

Board members are expected to:

- attend eight half-day meetings and two professional development half-days each year
- serve on the QCT committees that uphold quality standards for the profession
- contribute to judging for the TEACHX Awards

Costs are reimbursed for members to attend Board meetings including Teacher Relief Scheme (TRS) funds to assist schools with replacement of classroom teachers.

All Queensland practising teachers are encouraged to consider whether they have the capabilities and commitment to be an effective QCT Board member.

Capabilities and experience required

A passion for education

The QCT was established to advance the reputation of the profession through effective regulation in the public interest and the development of sound, evidence-based policies on teaching. Board members act as advocates for teachers, teaching and the QCT and are expected to act in the best interests of the teaching profession as a whole.

Integrity and conscientiousness

Board members take part in the QCT's regulatory work, sitting on committees related to its functions including professional standards, professional conduct and internal review. Members are accountable for the work of the QCT, including planning its budget and setting fees. Members must at all times act ethically, with appropriate independence, putting the QCT's interests before personal interests.

Professional credibility

The QCT advises the Minister for Education on a wide range of issues related to the teaching profession. It draws on research evidence and the expertise of practising teachers. Board members need the professional credibility to contribute to the development of QCT policy. Experience as a classroom teacher or school leader is very important.

Strategic vision

The Board sets the direction for the work of the QCT. Members need to be able to think strategically and ensure that the Board focuses its attention on the key issues affecting the profession.

Team work

Members must be able to work effectively in a team, participating in debates and respecting the aim of reaching consensus.

Other information

The commitment

Being a Board member may require an overall commitment of at least 10 days per year in school term time. Board meetings are held six-weekly from February to December. Members should expect to attend at least eight Board meetings a year as well as meetings of QCT committees and working parties as required. In addition to the 10 days, members need to prepare for Board and committee meetings by reading and reviewing Board paper provided.

Location of meetings

Board and Committee meetings are normally held at the QCT's office in Brisbane. For members living outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, travel could add to the time commitment required.

Expenses and support

The QCT pays travel, accommodation and expenses for any in-person attendance at meetings for members from outside of the Brisbane metropolitan area. Practising teachers are also supported through the payment of Teacher Replacement Salaries (TRS) to ensure that their school and students are not disadvantaged by their commitment to the work of the QCT.

The QCT will arrange for appropriate training and induction for new Board members and ongoing professional development support of members whilst in office.